

REMARKS

1. Status of Claims

Claims 1-12 were pending in the Application with claims 7-12 withdrawn from consideration. Applicants have amended claims 1 and 3 and canceled claims 7-12 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants have added new claims 13-26 directed to Group 1. Applicants respectfully request entry of the above amendments and consideration of the enclosed remarks. Applicants submit that no new matter is added. Accordingly, claims 1-6 and 13-26 will remain pending in the application.

2. Claim Restriction

The Examiner restricted the claims among the following allegedly distinct species:

Group 1: Fig. 7, claims 1-6;

Group II: Fig. 9, claims 7-10; and

Group III: Fig. 10, claims 11-12.

Applicants do not admit that the restriction is proper, but solely to expedite prosecution, have elected to prosecute Group 1 without traverse. Claims 7-12 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to pursue in another application.

3. Rejections under 35 USC § 103(a)

In section 8 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1 - 6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly rendered obvious by U.S. Patent No. US 7,089,288 B2 to Gossweiler, et al. ("Gossweiler '288") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2005/0131959 A1 by Thorman, et al. ("Thorman '959").

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. However, solely to expedite prosecution, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 3. Therefore, the rejection is moot.

Claim 1 currently recites:

1. A method for processing a physical token in a responsive environment to provide an association with a virtual document comprising:
 placing a physical sensor in proximity to the physical token;
 placing the physical token in an instrumented association bin;
 launching a document browser application;
 obtaining user selection data from the document browser application identifying [[a]] the virtual document to register with the token;
 and
 creating a sensor model instance associating the physical sensor with the physical token and the virtual document.

The cited references do not teach or suggest such a physical sensor associated with a physical token. The cited references do not teach or describe a physical sensor associated with the particular token and virtual document so that it can report physical interaction such as touch applied to the token, but merely describe id tags and physical items. Moreover, the cited references do not teach or suggest an instrumented association bin. As described in the passage cited by the Examiner at Gossweiler '288, Col. 6, lines 14-36, the reference requires a user to type in associations and does not use an instrumented association bin.

The dependent claims 2-6 are patentable over the cited references for at least the reasons described herein with reference to the independent claim and any associated intervening claims.

Furthermore, with regard to claims 2-6, the cited references do not teach or suggest the sensor model instance as presently claimed.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-6 are patentable over the cited references and respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

4. New Claims

Applicants respectfully submit that new independent claim 13 and new dependent claims 14-26 are patentable over the cited references. For example, the

independent claim is patentable for at least the reasons described above with reference to the argued limitations of claim 1 and the dependent claims are patentable for at least the reasons described with reference to the relevant independent claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-6 and 13-26 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections.

5. Conclusion Of Remarks

For at least the reasons stated above, it is respectfully submitted that the claims of this application are in condition for allowance and early and favorable action thereon is requested.

If the Examiner believes that additional issues may be resolved by a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned attorney for Applicant at (203) 924-3180.

6. Authorization

No fee is believed due with this response. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for the response or credit any overpayment to the Pitney Bowes, Inc. Deposit Account Number 16-1885, Order No. F-870.

In the event that an extension of time or additional extension of time is required to make this response timely filed, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to the Pitney Bowes, Inc. Deposit Account Number 16-1885, Order No. F-870.

Respectfully submitted,

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